

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

HOW THE HEALTH CARE LAW BENEFITS SENIORS AND IMPROVES MEDICARE

- **Reduces prescription drug costs for seniors.** Since the health care law was enacted, more than 6.1 million seniors in the Medicare Part D ‘donut hole’ coverage gap have saved over \$5.7 billion on prescription drugs. In 2012 alone, more than 3.5 million seniors saved more than \$2.5 billion on Rx drugs, or an average of \$706 per senior. The health care law completely closes the donut hole by 2020. It is estimated that seniors in the ‘donut hole’ will save an average of over \$18,000 on their Rx drugs from the law’s enactment through 2022.
- **Provides free Medicare coverage of key preventive services,** such as mammograms and colonoscopies. Before reform, some services could have a co-pay as high as \$160. In 2011, 32.5 million seniors received one or more of these free preventive services, and in 2012, 34.1 million seniors received one or more of these free services.
- **Provides a free Annual Wellness Visit under Medicare.** In 2011, 2.3 million seniors had a free Wellness Visit, and in 2012, 3.2 million seniors had one.
- **Strengthens Medicare and extends the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund by 8 years – from 2016 to 2024.** The law’s reforms strengthen solvency by squeezing waste out of the system and making it more efficient, without reducing benefits.
- **Provides new tools and enhanced authority to crack down on fraud in Medicare,** and, over the last four years, a joint anti-Medicare fraud task force of HHS and the Department of Justice has recovered nearly \$15 billion in fraudulent Medicare payments on behalf of taxpayers, doubling the amount recovered over the four years prior – and the anti-fraud crackdown continues.
- **Helps seniors remain at home and stay out of nursing homes,** with the new Community First Choice Option, allowing states to offer home-based services to individuals with disabilities through Medicaid rather than institutional care.